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Agenda item 54

Sustainable development

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Tamar **Tchitanava** (Georgia)

I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 2007, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-second session the item entitled:

"Sustainable development:

"(a) Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

"(b) Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

"(c) International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;

"(d) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind;

"(e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;

"(f) Convention on Biological Diversity;

"(g) Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-fourth session;

"(h) Sustainable mountain development;

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"(i) Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy"

and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 15th to 19th meetings, from 29 to 31 October 2007. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/62/SR.15-19). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 2nd to 6th meetings, from 8 to 10 October (see A/C.2/62/SR.2-6). Action was taken on the item at the 21st, 23rd and 29th meetings, on 5, 6 and 28 November (see A/C.2/62/SR.21, 23 and 29). An account of the Committee's further consideration of the item will be provided in Part II and the addenda to the present report.

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

Item 54
Sustainable development

Report of the Secretary-General on the oil slick on Lebanese shores (A/62/343)

Letter dated 30 May 2007 from the representative of Pakistan to the Secretary-General (A/61/981-S/2007/656)

Letter dated 18 September 2007 from the representative of Brazil to the Secretary-General (A/62/356)

Letter dated 10 October 2007 from the representatives of El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua to the Secretary-General (A/62/486)

Letter dated 8 October 2007 from the representative of Pakistan to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Ministerial Declaration adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 and China at their thirty-first annual meeting, held at United Nations Headquarters on 27 September 2007 (A/62/488)

Letter dated 18 October 2007 from the representative of Pakistan to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final communiqué of the annual coordination meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, held at United Nations Headquarters on 2 October 2007 (A/62/507-S/2007/636)

Letter dated 23 October 2007 from the Secretary-General to the President of the General Assembly (A/62/511)

Letter dated 27 September 2007 from the representative of Indonesia to the Secretary-General (A/C.2/62/3)

Item 54 (a)
Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (A/62/262)

Report of the Secretary-General on the International Year of Planet Earth (A/62/376)

Letter dated 10 October 2007 from the representative of El Salvador to the Secretary-General (A/62/483-E/2007/90)

Letter dated 17 October 2007 from the representative of Tajikistan to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Bishkek Declaration adopted on 16 August 2007 by the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (A/62/492-S/2007/616)

Item 54 (b)
Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (A/62/279)

Letter dated 10 October 2007 from the representative of El Salvador to the Secretary-General (A/62/483-E/2007/90)

Item 54 (c)
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Towards a United Nations humanitarian assistance programme for disaster response and reduction: lessons learned from the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster" (A/61/699-E/2007/8 and Add.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (A/62/320)

Report of the Secretary-General on the Global Survey of Early Warning Systems (A/62/340)

Letter dated 5 September 2007 from the representative of Nicaragua to the Secretary-General (A/62/371)

Letter dated 26 September 2007 from the representative of Nicaragua to the Secretary-General (A/62/372)

Letter dated 10 October 2007 from the representative of El Salvador to the Secretary-General (A/62/483-E/2007/90)

Letter dated 17 October 2007 from the representative of Tajikistan to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Bishkek Declaration adopted on 16 August 2007 by the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (A/62/492-S/2007/616)

Letter dated 22 October 2007 from the representative of Nicaragua to the Secretary-General (A/62/501)

Item 54 (d)
Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

Report of the Secretary-General on products harmful to health and the environment (A/62/78-E/2007/62)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the reports submitted by the secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the Convention on Biological Diversity on the implementation of United Nations environmental conventions (A/62/276)

Letter dated 31 October 2007 from the representative of Bahrain to the Secretary-General (A/62/516-S/2007/648)

Item 54 (e)
Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the reports submitted by the secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the Convention on Biological Diversity on the implementation of United Nations environmental conventions (A/62/276)

Note by the Secretariat on the ten-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (2008-2018) (A/C.2/62/7)

Item 54 (f)
Convention on Biological Diversity

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the reports submitted by the secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the Convention on Biological Diversity on the implementation of United Nations environmental conventions (A/62/276)

Item 54 (g)
Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-fourth session

Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-fourth session[1]

Item 54 (h)
Sustainable mountain development

Report of the Secretary-General (A/62/292)

Item 54 (i)
Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy

Report of the Secretary-General (A/62/208)

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/62/25).

Letter dated 17 October 2007 from the representative of Tajikistan to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Bishkek Declaration adopted on 16 August 2007 by the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (A/62/492-S/2007/616)

Letter dated 15 October 2007 from the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the Secretary-General (A/C.2/62/8)

4. At the 15th meeting, on 29 October, introductory statements were made by the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development (under sub-items (a), (b), (d) and (i)); the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator (under sub-item (c)); the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (under sub-item (e)); the Director of the Sustainable Development Mechanisms Programme, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (under sub-item (d)); the Principal Officer for Social, Economic and Legal Matters, United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (under sub-item (f)); the Director of the New York Liaison Office of the United Nations Environment Programme (under sub-item (g)); the Director of the New York Office of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (under sub-item (h)); the representative of the New York Liaison Office of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (under sub-item (a)); and the Inspector in the Joint Inspection Unit (under sub-item (c)) (see A/C.2/62/SR.15).

5. At the same meeting, pursuant to section C, paragraph 3 (d), of the annex to General Assembly resolution 58/316, the representative of Pakistan, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, posed a question to the representative of the United Nations Environment Programme (see A/C.2/62/SR.15).

6. At the 16th meeting, on 29 October, the representative of the United Nations Environment Programme responded to the question posed by the representative of Pakistan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China (see A/C.2/62/SR.16).

7. At the same meeting, the Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States made a statement (see A/C.2/62/SR.16).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.5

8. By its resolution 2007/40 of 17 October 2007, the Economic and Social Council recommended to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution entitled "Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests". The draft resolution was reproduced in document A/C.2/62/L.5.

9. At its 29th meeting, on 28 November, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

10. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.5 (see para. 11).

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

11. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests

The General Assembly,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/49 of 28 July 2006, in which the Council requested the United Nations Forum on Forests to conclude and adopt at its seventh session a non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests,

1. *Decides* to adopt the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests as contained in the annex to the present resolution;

2. *Invites* members of the governing bodies of the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to support the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, consistent with the mandates of those organizations, and, to that end, invites the United Nations Forum on Forests to provide guidance to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests;

3. *Also invites* donor Governments and other countries in a position to do so, financial institutions and other organizations to make voluntary financial contributions to the Trust Fund of the United Nations Forum on Forests for it to address, within the context of its multi-year programme of work, the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and to provide support for participants from developing countries and countries with economies in transition to attend meetings of the Forum;

4. *Decides* that the Forum will review the effectiveness of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests as part of the overall review of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests decided upon by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2006/49 of 28 July 2006.

Annex

Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests

Member States,

Recognizing that forests and trees outside forests provide multiple economic, social and environmental benefits, and emphasizing that sustainable forest management contributes significantly to sustainable development and poverty eradication,

Recalling the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests;[a] chapter 11 of Agenda 21;[b] the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests; resolutions and decisions of the United Nations Forum on Forests; the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;[c] the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development;[d] and the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals; the 2005 World Summit Outcome;[e] and existing international legally binding instruments relevant to forests,

Welcoming the accomplishments of the international arrangement on forests since its inception by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2000/35 of 18 October 2000, and recalling the decision of the Council, in its resolution 2006/49 of 28 July 2006, to strengthen the international arrangement on forests,

Reaffirming their commitment to the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[f] including that States have, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental and developmental policies and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, and to the common but differentiated responsibilities of countries, as set out in Principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,

Recognizing that sustainable forest management, as a dynamic and evolving concept, is intended to maintain and enhance the economic, social and environmental value of all types of forests, for the benefit of present and future generations,

Expressing their concern about continued deforestation and forest degradation, as well as the slow rate of afforestation and forest cover recovery and reforestation, and the resulting adverse impact on economies, the environment, including biological diversity, and the livelihoods of at least a billion people and their cultural heritage, and emphasizing the need for more

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[a] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex III.

[b] Ibid., annex II.

[c] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex 1 and resolution 2, annex.

[d] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[e] Resolution 60/1.

[f] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I: *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), resolution 1, annex I.

effective implementation of sustainable forest management at all levels to address these critical challenges,

Recognizing the impact of climate change on forests and sustainable forest management, as well as the contribution of forests to addressing climate change,

Reaffirming the special needs and requirements of countries with fragile forest ecosystems, including those of low-forest-cover countries,

Stressing the need to strengthen political commitment and collective efforts at all levels, to include forests in national and international development agendas, to enhance national policy coordination and international cooperation and to promote intersectoral coordination at all levels for the effective implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests,

Emphasizing that effective implementation of sustainable forest management is critically dependent upon adequate resources, including financing, capacity development and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies, and recognizing in particular the need to mobilize increased financial resources, including from innovative sources, for developing countries, including least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition,

Also emphasizing that implementation of sustainable forest management is also critically dependent upon good governance at all levels,

Noting that the provisions of this instrument do not prejudice the rights and obligations of Member States under international law,

Have committed themselves as follows:

I. Purpose

1. The purpose of this instrument is:

(a) To strengthen political commitment and action at all levels to implement effectively sustainable management of all types of forests and to achieve the shared global objectives on forests;

(b) To enhance the contribution of forests to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in particular with respect to poverty eradication and environmental sustainability;

(c) To provide a framework for national action and international cooperation.

II. Principles

2. Member States should respect the following principles, which build upon the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development[f] and the Rio Forest Principles:[a]

(a) The instrument is voluntary and non-legally binding;

(b) Each State is responsible for the sustainable management of its forests and for the enforcement of its forest-related laws;

(c) Major groups as identified in Agenda 21,[g] local communities, forest owners and other relevant stakeholders contribute to achieving sustainable forest management and should be involved in a transparent and participatory way in forest decision-making processes that affect them, as well as in implementing sustainable forest management, in accordance with national legislation;

(d) Achieving sustainable forest management, in particular in developing countries as well as in countries with economies in transition, depends on significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources;

(e) Achieving sustainable forest management also depends on good governance at all levels;

(f) International cooperation, including financial support, technology transfer, capacity-building and education, plays a crucial catalytic role in supporting the efforts of all countries, particularly developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition, to achieve sustainable forest management.

III. Scope

3. The instrument applies to all types of forests.

4. Sustainable forest management, as a dynamic and evolving concept, aims to maintain and enhance the economic, social and environmental values of all types of forests, for the benefit of present and future generations.

IV. Global objectives on forests

5. Member States reaffirm the following shared global objectives on forests and their commitment to work globally, regionally and nationally to achieve progress towards their achievement by 2015:

[g] The major groups identified in Agenda 21 are women, children and youth, indigenous people and their communities, non-governmental organizations, local authorities, workers and trade union, business and industry, scientific and technological communities, and farmers.

Global objective 1

Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation;

Global objective 2

Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent people;

Global objective 3

Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests;

Global objective 4

Reverse the decline in official development assistance for sustainable forest management and mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management.

V. National policies and measures

6. To achieve the purpose of the instrument, and taking into account national policies, priorities, conditions and available resources, Member States should:

(a) Develop, implement, publish and, as necessary, update national forest programmes or other strategies for sustainable forest management which identify actions needed and contain measures, policies or specific goals, taking into account the relevant proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests and resolutions of the United Nations Forum on Forests;

(b) Consider the seven thematic elements of sustainable forest management,[h] which are drawn from the criteria identified by existing criteria and indicators processes, as a reference framework for sustainable forest management and, in this context, identify, as appropriate, specific environmental and other forest-related aspects within those elements for consideration as criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management;

(c) Promote the use of management tools to assess the impact on the environment of projects that may significantly affect forests, and promote good environmental practices for such projects;

(d) Develop and implement policies that encourage the sustainable management of forests to provide a wide range of goods and services and that

[h] The elements are (i) extent of forest resources; (ii) forest biological diversity; (iii) forest health and vitality; (iv) productive functions of forest resources; (v) protective functions of forest resources; (vi) socio-economic functions of forests; and (vii) legal, policy and institutional framework.

also contribute to poverty reduction and the development of rural communities;

(e) Promote efficient production and processing of forest products, with a view inter alia to reducing waste and enhancing recycling;

(f) Support the protection and use of traditional forest-related knowledge and practices in sustainable forest management with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, and promote fair and equitable sharing of benefits from their utilization, in accordance with national legislation and relevant international agreements;

(g) Further develop and implement criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management that are consistent with national priorities and conditions;

(h) Create enabling environments to encourage private-sector investment, as well as investment by and involvement of local and indigenous communities, other forest users and forest owners and other relevant stakeholders, in sustainable forest management, through a framework of policies, incentives and regulations;

(i) Develop financing strategies that outline the short-, medium- and long-term financial planning for achieving sustainable forest management, taking into account domestic, private-sector and foreign funding sources;

(j) Encourage recognition of the range of values derived from goods and services provided by all types of forests and trees outside forests, as well as ways to reflect such values in the marketplace, consistent with relevant national legislation and policies;

(k) Identify and implement measures to enhance cooperation and cross-sectoral policy and programme coordination among sectors affecting and affected by forest policies and management, with a view to integrating the forest sector into national decision-making processes and promoting sustainable forest management, including by addressing the underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation, and by promoting forest conservation;

(l) Integrate national forest programmes, or other strategies for sustainable forest management, as referred to in paragraph 6 (a) above, into national strategies for sustainable development, relevant national action plans and poverty-reduction strategies;

(m) Establish or strengthen partnerships, including public-private partnerships, and joint programmes with stakeholders to advance the implementation of sustainable forest management;

(n) Review and, as needed, improve forest-related legislation, strengthen forest law enforcement and promote good governance at all levels in order to support sustainable forest management, to create an enabling environment for forest investment and to combat and eradicate illegal practices, in accordance with national legislation, in the forest and other related sectors;

(o) Analyse the causes of and address threats to forest health and vitality from natural disasters and human activities, including threats from fire, pollution, pests, disease and invasive alien species;

(p) Create, develop or expand, and maintain networks of protected forest areas, taking into account the importance of conserving representative forests, by means of a range of conservation mechanisms, applied within and outside protected forest areas;

(q) Assess the conditions and management effectiveness of existing protected forest areas with a view to identifying improvements needed;

(r) Strengthen the contribution of science and research in advancing sustainable forest management by incorporating scientific expertise into forest policies and programmes;

(s) Promote the development and application of scientific and technological innovations, including those that can be used by forest owners and local and indigenous communities to advance sustainable forest management;

(t) Promote and strengthen public understanding of the importance of and the benefits provided by forests and sustainable forest management, including through public awareness programmes and education;

(u) Promote and encourage access to formal and informal education, extension and training programmes on the implementation of sustainable forest management;

(v) Support education, training and extension programmes involving local and indigenous communities, forest workers and forest owners, in order to develop resource management approaches that will reduce the pressure on forests, particularly fragile ecosystems;

(w) Promote active and effective participation by major groups, local communities, forest owners and other relevant stakeholders in the development, implementation and assessment of forest-related national policies, measures and programmes;

(x) Encourage the private sector, civil society organizations and forest owners to develop, promote and implement in a transparent manner voluntary instruments, such as voluntary certification systems or other appropriate mechanisms, to develop and promote forest products from sustainably managed forests harvested in accordance with domestic legislation, and to improve market transparency;

(y) Enhance access by households, small-scale forest owners, forest-dependent local and indigenous communities, living in and outside forest areas, to forest resources and relevant markets in order to support livelihoods and income diversification from forest management, consistent with sustainable forest management.

VI. International cooperation and means of implementation

7. To achieve the purpose of the instrument, Member States should:

(a) Make concerted efforts to secure a sustained high-level political commitment to strengthen the means of implementation of sustainable forest management, including financial resources, to provide support, in particular for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, as well as to mobilize and provide significantly increased, new and additional financial

resources from private, public, domestic and international sources to and within developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition;

(b) Reverse the decline in official development assistance for sustainable forest management and mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management;

(c) Take action to raise the priority of sustainable forest management in national development plans and other plans, including poverty-reduction strategies, in order to facilitate increased allocation of official development assistance and financial resources from other sources for sustainable forest management;

(d) Develop and establish positive incentives, in particular for developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition, to reduce the loss of forests, to promote reforestation, afforestation and rehabilitation of degraded forests, to implement sustainable forest management and to increase the area of protected forests;

(e) Support the efforts of countries, particularly developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition, to develop and implement economically, socially and environmentally sound measures that act as incentives for the sustainable management of forests;

(f) Strengthen the capacity of countries, in particular developing countries, to significantly increase the production of forest products from sustainably managed forests;

(g) Enhance bilateral, regional and international cooperation with a view to promoting international trade in forest products from sustainably managed forests harvested according to domestic legislation;

(h) Enhance bilateral, regional and international cooperation to address illicit international trafficking in forest products through the promotion of forest law enforcement and good governance at all levels;

(i) Strengthen, through enhanced bilateral, regional and international cooperation, the capacity of countries to combat effectively illicit international trafficking in forest products, including timber, wildlife and other forest biological resources;

(j) Strengthen the capacity of countries to address forest-related illegal practices, including wildlife poaching, in accordance with domestic legislation, through enhanced public awareness, education, institutional capacity-building, technological transfer and technical cooperation, law enforcement and information networks;

(k) Enhance and facilitate access to and transfer of appropriate, environmentally sound and innovative technologies and corresponding know-how relevant to sustainable forest management and to efficient value-added processing of forest products, in particular to developing countries, for the benefit of local and indigenous communities;

(l) Strengthen mechanisms that enhance sharing among countries and the use of best practices in sustainable forest management, including through freeware-based information and communications technology;

(m) Strengthen national and local capacity in keeping with their conditions for the development and adaptation of forest-related technologies, including technologies for the use of fuelwood;

(n) Promote international technical and scientific cooperation, including South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, in the field of sustainable forest management, through the appropriate international, regional and national institutions and processes;

(o) Enhance the research and scientific forest-related capacities of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, particularly the capacity of research organizations to generate and have access to forest-related data and information, and promote and support integrated and interdisciplinary research on forest-related issues, and disseminate research results;

(p) Strengthen forestry research and development in all regions, particularly in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, through relevant organizations, institutions and centres of excellence, as well as through global, regional and subregional networks;

(q) Strengthen cooperation and partnerships at the regional and subregional levels to promote sustainable forest management;

(r) As members of the governing bodies of the organizations that form the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, help ensure that the forest-related priorities and programmes of members of the Partnership are integrated and mutually supportive, consistent with their mandates, taking into account relevant policy recommendations of the United Nations Forum on Forests;

(s) Support the efforts of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to develop and implement joint initiatives.

VII. Monitoring, assessment and reporting

8. Member States should monitor and assess progress towards achieving the purpose of this instrument.

9. Member States should submit, on a voluntary basis, taking into account the availability of resources and the requirements and conditions for the preparation of reports for other bodies or instruments, national progress reports as part of their regular reporting to the Forum.

VIII. Working modalities

10. The Forum should address, within the context of its multi-year programme of work, the implementation of this instrument.

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Sustainable development

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Tamar **Tchitanava** (Georgia)

I. Introduction

1. An account of the general discussion under this item and the previous recommendation made by the Second Committee to the General Assembly appear in the report of the Committee contained in document A/62/419 (Part I). An account of the Committee's further consideration of the item is provided in the addenda to the present report.

2. The Committee also considered the item at its 32nd meeting, on 7 December 2007 (see A/C.2/62/SR.32).

3. For the documents before the Committee under this item, see document A/62/419 (Part I).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/62/L.21 and Rev.1

4. At the 23rd meeting, on 6 November, the representative of Pakistan, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Oil slick on Lebanese shores" (A/C.2/62/L.21), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolution 61/194 of 20 December 2006 on the oil slick on Lebanese shores,

"*Reaffirming* the outcome of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, especially principle 7 of the Declaration of the

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Conference, which requested States to take all possible steps to prevent pollution of the seas,

"*Emphasizing* the need to protect and preserve the marine environment in accordance with international law,

"*Taking into account* the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, especially principle 16, which stipulates that the polluter should, in principle, bear the cost of pollution, and taking into account also chapter 17 of Agenda 21,

"*Noting again with great concern* the environmental catastrophe caused by the premeditated destruction by the Israeli Air Force on 15 July 2006 of the oil storage tanks in the direct vicinity of El Jiyeh electric power plant in Lebanon, resulting in an oil slick that covered the entirety of the Lebanese coastline and extended to the Syrian coastline,

"*Acknowledging* the need for further elaboration by relevant United Nations bodies on the damage caused beyond Lebanese territorial waters,

"*Noting again with appreciation* the assistance offered by donor countries and international organizations for the early recovery and reconstruction of Lebanon through bilateral and multilateral channels, including the Athens Coordination Meeting on the response to the marine pollution incident in the Eastern Mediterranean, held on 17 August 2006, as well as the Stockholm Conference for Lebanon's Early Recovery, held on 31 August 2006,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/194 on the oil slick on Lebanese shores;

"2. *Expresses once again its deep concern* over the adverse implications of the premeditated destruction by the Israeli Air Force of the oil storage tanks in the direct vicinity of the Lebanese El Jiyeh electric power plant for the achievement of sustainable development in Lebanon;

"3. *Confirms* that the oil slick has heavily polluted the shores of Lebanon and partially polluted Syrian shores and consequently has had profound adverse effects on livelihoods and the economy of Lebanon, owing to the adverse implications for natural resources, biodiversity, fisheries and tourism, and for human health, in the country;

"4. *Requests* the Government of Israel to take all necessary actions towards assuming responsibility for prompt and adequate compensation and accountability to the Government of Lebanon and other affected countries for the costs of repairing the environmental damage caused by the destruction, including the restoration of the marine environment;

"5. *Expresses its appreciation* for the efforts of the Government of Lebanon and those of the Member States, regional and international organizations, regional and international financial institutions, non-governmental organizations and the private sector in the initiation of clean-up and rehabilitation operations on the polluted shores, and calls upon the Member States and above-mentioned entities to continue their financial

and technical support to the Government of Lebanon towards achieving the completion of clean-up and rehabilitation operations, with the aim of preserving the ecosystem of Lebanon and that of the Eastern Mediterranean Basin;

"6. *Calls for* the mobilization of international technical and financial assistance through donor support for the creation of an eastern Mediterranean oil spill restoration fund to support the integrated environmentally sound management, from clean-up to safe disposal of oily waste, of this environmental catastrophe resulting from the Israeli Air Force attack on the oil storage tanks at El Jiyeh electric power plant;

"7. *Calls upon* the international community, the United Nations system and other international organizations to increase their financial and technical support for the strengthening of the disaster risk management and disaster preparedness capacity of Lebanon and other affected countries;

"8. *Recognizes* the multi-dimensionality of the adverse impact of the oil slick, and requests the establishment of a United Nations task force combining all relevant organizations and entities of the United Nations system and affiliated bodies to supplement the efforts of the Secretary-General and assist him in submitting to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session an integrated report on the implementation of the present resolution under the item entitled 'Sustainable development'."

5. At its 32nd meeting, on 7 December, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled "Oil slick on Lebanese shores" (A/C.2/62/L.21/Rev.1), submitted by the representative of Pakistan on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

6. At the same meeting, the Committee was advised that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

7. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.21/Rev.1 by a recorded vote of 153 to 7, with 2 abstentions (see para. 10). The voting was as follows:[1]

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan

[1] The delegation of Cameroon subsequently indicated that it had intended to abstain, and the delegation of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia indicated that, had it been present, it would have voted in favour.

Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Australia, Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire.

8. Also at the 32nd meeting, statements were made after the vote by the representatives of the United States of America, Israel and Lebanon (see A/C.2/62/SR.32).

9. At the same meeting, the representative of Lebanon made a statement in exercise of the right of reply (see A/C.2/62/SR.32).

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

10. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Oil slick on Lebanese shores

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 61/194 of 20 December 2006 on the oil slick on Lebanese shores,

Reaffirming the outcome of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, especially principle 7 of the Declaration of the Conference,[1] which requested States to take all possible steps to prevent pollution of the seas,

Emphasizing the need to protect and preserve the marine environment in accordance with international law,

Taking into account the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[2] especially principle 16, which stipulates that the polluter should, in principle, bear the cost of pollution, and taking into account also chapter 17 of Agenda 21,[3]

Noting again with great concern the environmental disaster caused by the destruction by the Israeli Air Force on 15 July 2006 of the oil storage tanks in the direct vicinity of el Jiyeh electric power plant in Lebanon, resulting in an oil slick that covered the entirety of the Lebanese coastline and extended to the Syrian coastline,

Noting again with appreciation the assistance offered by donor countries and international organizations for the early recovery and reconstruction of Lebanon through bilateral and multilateral channels, including the Athens Coordination Meeting on the response to the marine pollution incident in the Eastern Mediterranean, held on 17 August 2006, as well as the Stockholm Conference for Lebanon's Early Recovery, held on 31 August 2006,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General[4] on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/194 on the oil slick on Lebanese shores;

2. *Reiterates the expression of its deep concern* about the adverse implications of the destruction by the Israeli Air Force of the oil storage tanks in the direct vicinity of the Lebanese el Jiyeh electric power plant for the achievement of sustainable development in Lebanon;

3. *Considers* that the oil slick has heavily polluted the shores of Lebanon and partially polluted Syrian shores and consequently has had serious implications

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[1] See *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, Stockholm, 5-16 June 1972* (A/CONF.48/14/Rev.1), part one, chap. I.

[2] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[3] Ibid., annex II.

[4] A/62/343.

for livelihoods and the economy of Lebanon, owing to the adverse implications for natural resources, biodiversity, fisheries and tourism, and for human health, in the country;

4. *Requests* the Government of Israel to assume responsibility for prompt and adequate compensation to the Government of Lebanon and other countries directly affected by the oil slick for the costs of repairing the environmental damage caused by the destruction, including the restoration of the marine environment;

5. *Expresses its appreciation* for the efforts of the Government of Lebanon and those of the Member States, regional and international organizations, regional and international financial institutions, non-governmental organizations and the private sector in the initiation of clean-up and rehabilitation operations on the polluted shores, and encourages the Member States and above-mentioned entities to continue their financial and technical support to the Government of Lebanon towards achieving the completion of clean-up and rehabilitation operations, with the aim of preserving the ecosystem of Lebanon and that of the Eastern Mediterranean Basin;

6. *Calls for* the mobilization of international technical and financial assistance through donor support for the creation of an eastern Mediterranean oil spill restoration fund, based on voluntary contributions, to support the integrated environmentally sound management, from clean-up to safe disposal of oily waste, of this environmental disaster resulting from the destruction by the Israeli Air Force of the oil storage tanks at el Jiyeh electric power plant;

7. *Recognizes* the multidimensionality of the adverse impact of the oil slick, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session a report on the implementation of the present resolution under the item entitled "Sustainable development".